

“Disqualifications for Christians,” Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 10:7 – July 19th, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series titled, “Disqualifications for Christians.”
- In chapter 10 Paul starts using the Israelites as an example of being disqualified from all God had waiting in the Promised Land.
- Paul is warning the Corinthians by specifically identifying what disqualified them hoping that they would not do what Israel did.

1. Relying on past blessings (Verses 1-4)

- Paul says the Corinthians were in danger of taking God's past blessings for granted in that it was excusing their sinful carnality.

2. Gratifying the lusts of the flesh (Verses 5-6)

- Paul refers to the Israelites growing tired of Manna and desiring meat to eat instead, which led to their death in the wilderness.

3. Indulging in idolatrous revelry (Verse 7)

- v7 Paul refers to the Israelites worshipping the golden calf after growing tired of waiting for Moses to come back from Mt. Sinai.
- I have to say that this is a most interesting example to use of the Israelites in order to warn the Corinthians of a similar fate.
- The reason being is Aaron makes them a golden calf as a replacement god, which they worshipped in a very sexual manner.

- The question becomes that of why does Paul include this particular example of the Israelites to warn the Corinthian Christians.
- I would suggest there's a twofold reason, the first of which is that idolatry and revelry can disqualify us from winning the race.
- Please know that being disqualified doesn't mean we can lose our salvation; rather, it does mean that we can lose our rewards.

- It's this second reason that I would like to spend the remainder of our time on, and it has to do with the why behind the what.
- More specifically, why they do what they do. Why the Israelites do what they do by indulging in idolatrous revelry and carnality.
- In order to answer this important why question, we need look no further than to the first four verses of Exodus chapter 32.

Exodus 32:1-4 (NKJV) — 1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” 2 And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

- I believe that they indulged in this idolatrous revelry mainly because Moses delayed in his coming down from the mountain.
- It's when the people saw that Moses delayed his coming that they gathered together and told Aaron to make them a new god.
- It's interesting to note they say, as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what became of him.

- I suppose you could say the Israelites didn't really believe that Moses was coming back anytime soon, or coming back at all.
- As such, it resulted in their giving up on and losing hope in this Moses, which in turn gave way to their idolatry and their revelry.
- To me, this sounds an awful lot like the wicked servant in the parable Jesus taught concerning His coming back as the master.

Matthew 24:45-51 - 45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Here's where I'm going with this, like the Israelites, and the Corinthians, we too are as prone to indulging in idolatrous revelry.
- If we say and believe in our hearts that Jesus is delaying His coming, we too will live our lives partying like He's never coming.
- Conversely, if we believe in our hearts that Jesus is coming soon, then like the faithful and wise servant, we'll live holy lives.

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV) — 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

- I'll bring it to an end with how it ends for the Israelites when Moses returns with the 10 Commandments on two stone tablets.
- After he breaks the stone tablets, which was symbolic of how the Israelites had broken God's law, 3,000 of them will be killed.
- The reason I point this out is because in the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians he mentions how the law kills.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (KJV) 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

- Consider this, 3,000 were killed when the law came down in Exodus, but 3,000 were saved when the Spirit came down in Acts.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.